

INFO FOR NEW DOG ADOPTERS

- HEARTWORMS -



ACS understands that the cost of treating heartworms can be costly. To help offset the costs we will refund your adoption fee once you have shown payment of a heartworm treatment at the facility of your choice.

Please fax the paid for invoice to 210-207-6673 with the animal ID number clearly written on top. We will process the refund and you will receive it within 2-3 weeks. The refund will not exceed the cost of treatment.

We allow for up to 30 days for you to obtain and pay for this treatment with the facility of your choice.



Did You Know?...

- Heartworms are a preventable but potentially fatal parasite that are transmitted by mosquitoes after they bite an infected animal. ALL pets are at risk for heartworms...even those who stay indoors or go outside only occasionally!



Graphic Courtesy of the American Heartworm Society

- Young heartworms called microfilariae grow into infective larvae in the mosquito's system. Those larvae then get transmitted to other animals when the mosquitoes feed.
- It takes about six months for those infective larvae to mature into adult heartworms. During that time, the growing worms can damage your pet's blood vessels, making it harder for their heart and lungs to work effectively.
- Adult heartworms can live for more than 5 years in dogs and if worms of both sexes are present in your pet's body, they can mate and produce even more microfilariae...thus starting the cycle all over!
- Signs of advanced heartworm infection can include coughing, loss of appetite, and difficulty breathing...but recently infected dogs may show no symptoms at all.

- Treatment of Heartworms -

San Antonio Pets Alive! offers a low cost treatment of heartworms.

All animals will need an assessment prior to treatment.

Please email medtech@sanantoniopetsalive.org in order to schedule your treatment. Please bring your animal and all adoption paperwork to our clinic located at 9107 Marbach Suite 109

Clinic Hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 1-6 pm, Saturday 1-5 pm

There is no vet on Sunday or Wednesday at this time.

During this assessment, the staff will explain what to expect during the course of treatment.

A typical course of treatment could include medication for 21+ days and then two injections to be given exactly 24 hours apart. So, at least 3 trips to the clinic will be needed.

Treatment includes Prednisone (prior to treatment), two immiticide injections, and Tramadol (after injections). Cost is based on the weight of your dog and can range from \$200 to \$350.

You can also opt to provide a course of Doxycycline for 21 days before the injections for \$2 per pound of animal.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**